

EQUALIZING X

Issue 2, Number 6

July 2002



DFA are a four piece from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and they play a unique blend of crossover reminiscent of bands from that original scene like the ACUSED or BEYOND POSSESSION. They fall in a new school of camp that can be associated with some of the revivalism around skate thrash, but is more closely associated with bands like HOLIER THAN THOU. Essentially coming up with it at the same time has made it seem like more co-ordinated effort, when in reality this is just mere coincidence. We had a chance to speak with the band about this and a few other things when they played live on Equalizing-x-Distort on Sunday July 7th. We are missing part of the interview, so we pick up half way through the interview in trying to dispell some of the rumours....



pushing and shoving and then.....

Mike (M): Somebody explain to me what a fuckin' scrum is... (laughter)

D: Fuck off, I am fuckin' talkin'. (while laughing). Anyways, my friend Dave came up and he doesn't take any shit and he started throwing punches and they started throwing punches and then a big brawl broke out for about 15 or 20 minutes. We were kind of lucky because we had our friends in TUBESTEAK, who are also from Saskatoon.

M:....they are very big guys.

D: Yeah, they are very big dudes. So other than that, the fights got broken up, we left, then a year and a half later I was in downtown

Saskatoon....Oh yeah sorry to backtrack for a second they started calling us nazis after the show which didn't make any sense to us. So a year and a half later I was sitting in Saskatoon downtown and I saw a poster for the WEDNESDAY NIGHT HEROES at the Wash 'n Slop so I had an idea. We got some spraypaint and we went to the show - I had to work that night so I got an hour off work to go do this and went to the show waited until they started playing. We went

you've got to get out of there, these guys were just here and they want to kill you." Because apparently they came in, knocked on the door. They were like "Where is that guy from JUNTO. He's dead, he's dead." Then they searched the house, room by room, and then..... Kramer (K): I mean me and Mike, we were going to kick their asses....

D:but they were high on drugs

Mike (M): Yup.

D: (starts laughing)

Can you tell me a bit about the punk house in Saskatoon ? Tell me about who lives there and how did it come about ?

D: A band called STRONGHOLD from Saskatoon used to live there and it has kind of been in the scene for like probably a decade and James and Ret from JUNTO started living there 4 or 5 years ago and then I moved in and that's where we jammed and stuff. It's like 10 bedrooms, 3 floors, a basement, 2 kitchens. It's just huge. But the bathtub is falling through and stuff and it's just a mess and at times we would have 13 people living there. It was like \$65 for rent. Yeah and 2 dogs. But there was dogshit everywhere and nobody did anything. We had a roommate who was 57 years old. His name was Brian and he was the most sketchiest person you'd ever see. He was an x-hippy and he was in the air force during the Cold War and he is real paranoid. He would tell us "If anybody comes here looking for me, phones here or anything, you don't know me and I don't live here."

Rob (R): But he was there for 30 minutes a month. He'd drop in on the first of the month, he'd pay his rent, pay his bills, he didn't use any water or electricity or anything. He'd come, he'd ask how much his bills were, he'd pay his rent, pay his bills maybe sit and chat for an



Derek, bassist for DFA

Derek (D): I think it was 1998, we were playing in Edmonton.... JUNTO, TUBESTEAK, WEDNESDAY NIGHT HEROES, MONSTER SQUAD, and somebody else that I can't remember, but anyways

WEDNESDAY NIGHT HEROES had a song that was pro-nationalism, and they played it so whatever, we waited until they were done their set. We went up and played. We have a song called "Axis and Allies" and it is anti-nationalism and totally opposite of what they were singing for so James goes up to the mic and says "This song is for the band that just played" and he explained what it was about. So we started playing it and they got really upset and they

were really drunk and stuff and started throwing beer bottles and beer cans at us while we were playing. So we kept playing and finally they were coming up on the stage pulling the mic away from James. So everything stopped and there was a big scrum. There was a lot of

outside with the spraycan and somebody spray painted a big swastika on their van, like a huge silver one, like about three feet by three feet. We took off. I went back to work and I get a phone call from Mike because him and Kramer were at our house and they are like, "Man



Mike, vocalist for DFA

hour and try and lay down some rules for the house and everything and we wouldn't see him again for 30 days.

Mike (M): If he hears this interview he is going to come and track us down and kill us for exposing him like this.

D: He was a cool old guy though. He would come down while we were jamming and he would be like "Good stuff guys, good stuff." (*laughter*) It would be like "Brian, can you help us take our equipment to the show," and he would be like "Oh yeah, no problem". And then he would come to the show and I would be talking to him and everybody would

think he was my dad.

"Oh it's so cute that you brought your dad to the show." I'd be like, "That's not my dad, that's my fuckin' room-mate".

But this house doesn't exist anymore...

R: No. There was one person who moved in.

It seemed like from that

point it was downhill for this house. This guy was suppose to move in and he was just this dirty crusty kid. He was suppose to move in for two weeks, he ended up staying the whole time and he would just have skids laying everywhere, all over the house, everyday and he had this newspaper route, too and there was just newspapers stacked everywhere so we had to give him shit for that all the time, but it seemed like from that point on it kept on going downhill...and then all the people like JUNTO, DFA, DEMON FACE, THE RAIDERS,

We all jammed there. There would be a ton of bands jamming there. Everybody quit jamming, everybody moved out and then it just became like a squat right, from that point everybody was kicked out....the landlord was in there with the fire insurance adjuster once a week, every week. He kicked everybody out, a week later the house burns down. Supposedly a bag of charcoal set on fire from the sun...

...that's pretty suspicious...

M: A wet bag of charcoal that dried up and then started on fire and burned down the whole house.

R: Sad to see it go, but...

Wow, what a scam.

R: No fuckin' doubt.

What is Saskatoon like in terms of a scene? or what is Saskatoon like in terms of a city?

D: It's a very beautiful city. Very quiet. Very small. Other than that I don't know. The scene is not too bad. There used to be an all ages club called the Animal Farm and it was a collective of guys and all the bands. You'd have crust bands, metal bands, pop punk bands, you know it was this big collective and they had a big space. You could fit 400 people in there and they had a big sound system and everything and they actually made three shows a month and it went on for a year and after a year they had \$3,000 in the bank account, but the guy that owned the bar upstairs was a coke addict and the bank, who was also a school teacher or elementary teacher, the bank foreclosed on it and they (the collective) paid a \$1,000 for rent and then a day later they got shut down, so they couldn't get their money back and they kept hounding the guy (bar owner), too, and the guy was like "Look man, you know the guys I hang out with. If you guys want to keep hassling me for this money be prepared." And that was the end of that.

Tell me about some of the bands that we heard earlier and some of the bands that currently exist.

Kramer (K): Well first I would like to mention KRIKE. That is me and Mike's side project. One of our room-mates bought a digital 8-track so we have just been making tons of

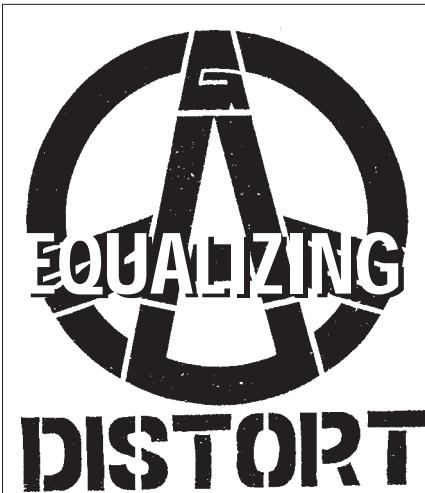
stupid bands with stupid songs and that was one of them. And KRIKE is our names, Kramer and Mike, put together.

M: Also explain MAIMER.

K: And MAIMER is Mike and Kramer put together the other way and it is with a drum machine. It is more of death metal grind project.



Rob, drummer for DFA



ISSUE 2, NUMBER 6

EQUALIZING-X-DISTORT MONTHLY is an extension of the weekly radio show heard on CIUT 89.5 FM every Sunday nights from 10:00pm 'til midnight (Hosts: Jonah Falco, Martin Farkas, Simon Harvey, Stephe Perry, and Mark Rodenhizer).

The show dedicates itself to the underground hardcore punk scene. There is a particular emphasis on international releases in the developing thrash, power violence, straight edge, grind, burning spirits, garage, chaos punk, and Killed By Death scenes, which means we play material like the Hero Dishonest, Municipal Waste, Low Threat Profile, Dudman, SDS, Les Sexareenos, Allegiance, or the Mods.

There is a weekly demo feature (paying homage to the cassette format), weekly event listings, and a monthly top 10 retrospective look at new releases.

Equalizing-X-Distort

CIUT 89.5 FM

Sundays 10:00 pm - midnight

91 St. George Street,

Toronto, ON

M5S 2E8

Canada

Request Line: (416) 946-7000

e-mail: equalizingXdistort@ciut.fm

Website: www.ciut.fm



Band

1. Discarga
2. The Awakening
3. The Futures
4. Foodchain
5. The Attack
6. Dillinger 4
7. Negative Step
8. The Vapids
9. Otophobia
10. Snobs

CIUT 89.5 FM - "Equalizing Distort"

Top 10 Hardcore Releases

for July 2002

Title

Title	Format	Label
Happy Night Electric Experience	CD	625 Productions
The Burning Wind	ep	Life Under One
Electric Music from the Underworld	CD	MCR
Screaming for Something	ep	Mangrove
Mental Health	ep	Dispossessed
Situanist Comedy	LP	Fat Wreck Chords
Conquering Punk	10"	Deep Six
Teenage Head	CD	Double Hell
Confined	ep	Sounds of Betrayal
Control	ep	My War

Equalizing Distort can be heard every Sunday night on CIUT 89.5 FM at 10:00 pm. The top 10 countdown can be heard in its entirety, complete with previews of the picks and analysis on the previous month in hardcore, on the last Sunday of the month.

R: I myself, I don't go really too far back in the Saskatoon scene, but OSWALD's WALKING CONNECTION is legendary in Saskatchewan or even western Canada.

K: At their last show at the Animal Farm, I think there was over 400 people...

M: 480.

K: ...yeah, for a purely local show, which you don't see too often.

R: So they were kind of pop punk legends, I guess. I think we heard some NATION OF WASTE. That was a good crusty punk band. Good stuff. Yeah there was kind of, for a period of, I don't know, at least the time that I was living in Saskatoon, probably for about three years there was quite a good scene for crust punk. Lots of grindcore.

Is there lots of bands now ?

R: All of that has fizzled out now. It's kind of....everyone is going emo.

K: Fuck emo. I would like to take a second to say how much we hate emo and everyone involved in emo

R: That is a fair assessment.

K: It is completely destroying the scene, easily like, you can't go to a show without seeing a stupid emo band.

D: Fuckin' fashion punks.

K:and they are just really terrible. It is just like college rock, just a bunch of kids whining.

You guys played some new stuff tonight, are you working on a new recording ?

K: Yes

And what might it be ?

K: As far as a name ?

No, no, no, in terms of a format.

K: It is going to be an LP on *Ugly Pop*.

R: or a 12", I'm not quite sure. Simon says it's an LP, so...

M: We were thinking about doing a split 7" with somebody, too.

How many new songs do you have ?

R: There is probably, front to back with everything 6 songs and then Kramer and myself do a lot of jamming, just the two of us and do a lot of writing like that.

We might have another three or four in the works. There is lots of riffs in t h e bank.

K: I'll just go to the riff bank and make a withdrawal and there is our album.

Are you guys going to do the LEFT FOR DEAD cover ?

K: Actually, if it turned out good this evening, we might just throw that on there.

R: Even if it doesn't I think that we will probably do it and throw it....you know maybe do a CD release and an LP release and throw an extra track on the vinyl.

K: I'm definitely all for giving more exposure to LEFT FOR DEAD and all of Chris' bands because they are all very good. (*the sounding of a sucking noise comes from somewhere in the room to emphasize the ass kissing nature of the comment*)

How long are you on the road for ?

K: We are on the road until the 21st of July and we started on June 15th, so that is like 80 days or something....(laughter)

And where else do you have to play ?

You play in London tomorrow.

K: We play in London tomorrow night and then we head into the States. I can't remember all the places we are playing.

R: It is going to be the first time for us playing the States. Eastern Canada is all pretty

new for us, but going to the cities in the States is going to be pretty incredible.

K: We are from a small town, it is going to be very frightening.

M: We are winding the tour down with a huge party in L.A., that is La Ronge, Saskatchewan. The crazy scene out there...

R: ...with our brothers COWPIE. (Note: Their Rowdie, Cody, plays in COWPIE).

M: There is only about 2,000 people that live there.

Cody: There is 8,000 you dumbass. (Then he starts talking facetiously). "I think there is 700 folks and about 300 of them are kids and they all come to shows."

R: As far as it is going, I think we head as far south as Pittsburgh or Philadelphia.

Simon (from *Ugly Pop*): You are going as far down as D.C. and then back up. Over the coast to Boston down the east coast to

all the big cities and certainly play a couple of shows and then word will get out and then we'll get deported because no one wants to come see you.

R: Yeah, I don't think they want to come see us anyways.

K: That's pending we all get across the border. **As a band what do you hope to accomplish ?**

R: This. Just touring, like this.

K: When we got the offer for the record from Simon it might as well have been a million dollar record deal because that was way more than we ever thought we'd get and now we are a lot more greedy. We have our sites set higher. We

want to get as much money out of Simon and *Ugly Pop* as possible.

R: Yeah, he is going to have to give us royalties.

How did the record come about ?

M: I was reading *Maximumrocknroll* and I came across an *Ugly Pop* interview with Simon and I don't know. It was right after we recorded our demo, which actually turned into the 12" and I just decided to send it to him. I don't know, it seemed like a real cool label. I wanted to get

some vinyl out and things worked out quite nicely.

R: He was the only person that replied to us. We probably sent out 15 demos and only heard back from one person.

That became the demo feature one week and I remember listening to it on the radio....

K: We got a generic letter back from *Burning Heart*. I think it was something like "Dear band, we apologize blah, blah, blah".

S: 625 wrote you back, as well.

K: 625 wrote us back and said that unfortunately they couldn't do anything but they would review it in, which zine was it....

M: *Mosh of Ass*.

How can people get in touch with DFA in terms of snail mail and then e-mail ?

K: You can e-mail me at crazy_kramer@hotmail.com.

S: ...but watch the content because his girlfriend is reading it. (ohhhhhh)

K: You guys suck. And if you can write fast enough our home address is.....oh wait I am not going to say that.

R: I want the mail. It's Rob. My address is 2514 - 7th Street East, Saskatoon, SK, S7H 1A5

Do you have a website address?

K: Yes we do. It's members.shaw.ca/destinedforassimilation. I don't know if there is a link on the *Ugly Pop* page.

S: There will be.

K: That's easier to remember. Just type uglypop.com and there will be a link up there soon.

Are there any last comments ? Is there anything you wanna say that we didn't get into ?

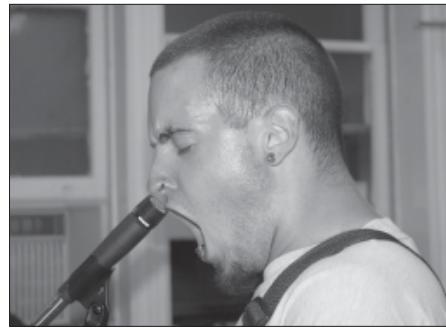
R: Thanks a lot to Simon for all his help.

M: And Jonas.

R: Thanks to Simon and Jonas for pressing the record and definitely taking us in for the last week here in Toronto.

D: I would like to thank Cody, our roadie. He has been very inspirational.

K: I would like to thank everybody who helped out on the radio show and made this possible and I would like to say "Fuck emo".



Kramer, other vocalist and guitarist for DFA



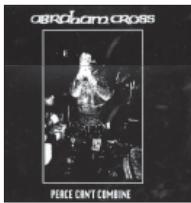
Reviews

Reviewers are:

MR - Mark Rodenizer, SH - Simon Harvey, and
SP - Stephe Perry

Abraham Cross "Peace can't combine" 12"

Long-time Tokyo crusties indulge in ten tracks of serious raw hardcore that takes the usual early DOOM/EXTREME NOISE TERROR fixation well past mere influence and into the realm of straight imitation. Mix rough, burly bass, trebly, distorted guitars and gruff vocals with inane, simplistic slogans masquerading as lyrics, add ludicrously predictable DISCHARGE cover then package in a stark black & white jacket with ANTISECT-inspired artwork and you've got yourself one very average Japanese crustcore record. I'm a sucker for the Japanese bands (SDS, DISCLOSE, EFFIGY) that have taken the standard influences to new extremes, but this compilation of the band's mid '90's output is, although a solid enough genre exercise, ultimately redundant and will prove essential to no one but the least discriminating Japcore fanatic. SH
(Crust War / 1-28-3A/Shikitsu-Nishi 2/Naniwa-Ku/Osaka City/556-0017 Japan)



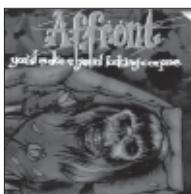
Acid Soil "Soil Contamination" ep

Is this some kind of supergroup or something? The liner notes suggest that ACID SOIL features members from ALLEGIANCE, FIRST ALERT (not the British band) and EARWIG. They certainly have the flaming guitar solos like they are from the Japanese hardcore hierarchy. The flip side starts with a bass heavy number that could be an out-take from the P.H.C. LP and then the MOTORHEAD structures kick in. But for the most part ACID SOIL play motorcharged Jap-core with screaming rock solos as played by Japanese street punks. There is no '77 influence here unless you take into consideration the metal rock soloing. But that can all be forgiven in the name of Japanese hardcore. SP
(Revive / 30 Nakajime-cho / Momoyama-cho / Fushimi-ku / Kyoto 612-8005 / Japan)



Affront "You'd make a good looking corpse" CD

What is it with the resurgence in Pushead artwork. I know he is back and doing stuff in the hardcore scene, but we have another artist by the name of Linas Garsys gracing the cover of the AFFRONT CD with some Pushead inspired skeletons. Okay, enough about the cover, AFFRONT are from Washington, DC. They play that "Summer of Revolution" melodic punk that oozed out of late 80's Dischord releases, but with some of the straight edge pop punk flare. It's like a getting SOULSIDE to listen to STRIKE ANYWHERE. Sometimes they sound like SCREAM and other times they sound like GORILLA BISCUITS. And coming from DC they pay homage to the most important band to come from there, with a cover of "Pay to Cum". SP
(Commode Records / P.O. Box 34101 / Calgary, AB / T3C 3W2 / Canada)



Asphixia "Wardrugs" ep

This looks to be an unearthing of a Japanese hardcore band from the 1991 -1993 period of a demo that was called "Brutal Avalanche Crust". The production is fuzzy as fuck and swirling like all my old demos, so this seems authentic. The vocals sound like they are filtered through a broken blowhorn. But if you can forgive the production quality, there is some raging Japanese hardcore in the CONFUSE vein. This is really only for fans of raw rough sounding demos and die-hards of Japanese hardcore. SP
(Crust War / 1-28-3a, Shikitsu-Nishi 2 / Naniwa-ku, Osaka city / 556-0017 Japan)



Balzac "Terrifying! Art of Dying-The Last Men on Earth" Boxset CDs

Fuck, if the MISFITS were half as marketing savvy as BALZAC are, they would have been mainstream. I know the MISFITS have their underground bootleg operations and reunion tours, which shouldn't count them out, but the amount of



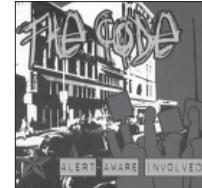
paraphernalia found in this boxset is a real blueprint on how to market. For those not familiar with BALZAC, they are Japan's answer to the MISFITS. The signature group "wo-oah-oh's", the fiendish themes, the skulls and leather jackets, the b-movie references...it's all here. They are very convincing impostaers. SP
(Diwphalanx Records / 2-3 Kanda Awajichou / Chiyoda-Ku / Tokyo 101-0063 / Japan)

Bombast "Gimme some..." CD-R

Toronto's BOMBAST wear their influences proudly, powering through three tracks of hard-driving metalpunk that's heavily indebted to MOTORHEAD's prime late '70's/early '80's material. Consistently fast with some nice riffing and good chops, this definitely falls more to the hard rock/metal side of the fence than DISCHARGE and the early Swedish hardcore that was equally influenced by the masters, but it's a great listen nonetheless, and you just know that this is one band that won't be adding synths or releasing dance mixes anytime soon. SH
(P.O. Box 67516/Dragon City Postal Outlet/280 Spadina Ave/Toronto, ON/M5T 3A5 Canada// email: bombastards@hotmail.com)

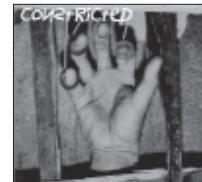
Code, The "Alert, Aware, Involved" CD

Some of you may know that I used to sport a "Rude Boy Rebellion" jacket in another life. So I have an appreciation for ska, but less so in it's hardcore formats. However the CODE do pull it off, in an AGAINST ALL AUTHORITY kind of way. For the most part THE CODE play a healthy enough dose of hardcore to counter the bouncy off-breaks. And the hardcore they play is political inspired pop punk so it is a lot more edgy. Their pop punk reminds me of locals CLOSET MONSTER in that it is incredibly catchy and incredibly well put together. Their ska parts are unexpected and come in as sneak attacks because for the most part this material clips along. I wish I could say that this is influenced by BEHIND ENEMY LINES, but it is probably more the result of ANTI-FLAG's inspiration. Progressive political pop punk with ska breaks and without AAA horns. SP
(AF Records / P.O. Box 1266 / Pittsburgh, PA / 15213 / USA)



Constricted "Struggle" ep

Ear piercing, chaotic Japanese hardcore. It is played with simplicity and the production is a little lacking, but doesn't effect this whatsoever. The chaos that ensues reminds me of first getting into DISORDER and hearing high pitched treble drum chaos that pummeled and peaked out of the distorted mess. But CONSTRICTED are clearly a Japanese hardcore band with rock structures played super fast. The vocals remind me of a more youthful energetic version of the singer from PAINTBOX. In fact, this whole release has a lot more energy than most Japanese hardcore. Maybe that is what sets them apart. They have the energy of most fastcore bands, with the song structure of traditional Japanese hardcore and the production values of a garage band. In my world, these elements spell greatness.



(Revive / 30 Nakajime-cho / Momoyama-cho / Fushimi-ku / Kyoto 612-8005 / Japan)

Crossface "Cross Days" CD

While HG Fact has released some tremendous examples of traditional Japanese hardcore at its finest, this six-track CD is not one of them. While by no means a weak release, "Cross days" suffers somewhat from the same general lack of distinction as several other recent HG Fact records in the same vein. While all the elements—driving speed, loud metallic guitars, angry vocals and strong production—are present here, nothing really reaches out and grabs the listener the way that PAINTBOX, EVANCE, early JUDGMENT and other older HG Fact classics did. Still, I'm rating this against a benchmark of particular excellence; compared to pretty much all the other hardcore coming out anywhere nowadays, this is still very good and remains a worthwhile addition to any good hardcore collection. Given a little more time to find their style and refine their attack, I could see CROSSFACE coming up with some truly great material one day. SH
(HG Fact/Nakano Shinbashi-M 105/Yayoi-Cho 2-7-15/Nakano, Tokyo/Japan 164-0013)



Curioso "Isso fica por sua conta" ep

This is fucking curious, alright. The band sounds melodic like ASTA KASK. The song titles are in Portuguese. CURIOSO could be the Japanese equivalent of the FUN PEOPLE. They have all these little breaks that remind one of SNUFF. And their group choruses have melodies that sound like they are straight out of CRUNCH or TOMORROW. I don't quite understand this release, but it is good, particularly for fans of pop punk. CURIOSO take all their cues from the early incarnations of what informed power pop and then blend it with some crazier more frantic versions of the style. This recording sounds very Finnish and very Italian at the same time. Here's to genre bending. SP
(Devour / 5-19 ShiojichoMizuhoku / Nagoya 467-0003 / Japan)

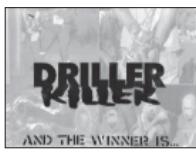
**Dillinger 4** "Situationist Comedy" LP

The new one is just like D4 can sound - that blend of pop punk, hardcore, and emo. They haven't lost anything in the years. Raw and gritty with those sing-along breaks that sound like they are coming out of your transistor radio tuned to your favourite hits station – it's the poppiness that is all fuzzed out, but never gives up on trying to break through the loudness. Chord progressions and emo-breakdowns pretty much power this puppy, but song structure remains unpredictable, which to me is part of the enjoyability of D4. One minute you are singing along to some melody and the next your are headbanging to some heavy part. And the lyrics are well written and continue to sum things up in some of the best and straight forward anthems of our time. Poetic summations that break through the noise. SP

(Fat Wreck Chords / P.O Box 193690 / San Francisco, CA / 94119-3690 / USA)

**Driller Killer** "And the Winner is...." LP

Full-on barreling forward motorcycle hardcore, the kind that best comes from Swedish d-beat bands. Throaty VENOM-like vocals set to a charging three chord assault that gets held in place by one of the steadiest DISCHARGE metronome beats that I have ever heard. It is fuckin' flawless and in keeping with what you expect of DRILLER KILLER. The combination of everything pulled together is absolutely pummeling, like a bulldozer. The screaming guitar solos in songs like "Fire in the Hole" borrow from traditional Jap-core. This blend of metal and hardcore have really come to define modern crustcore. If punks were in the "Hell's Angels" they would listen to DRILLER KILLER instead of MOTORHEAD and "Legalize Murder, Now" would become the new "Ace of Spades". And for fans of DRILLER KILLER, *Hardcore Holocaust* is about to release a number of DRILLER KILLER full lengths in North America. Cause for celebration, so raise a cauldron of mead and toast to the vitality of modern day d-beat. SP
(Hardcore Holocaust / P.O. Box 26742 / Richmond, VA / 23261 / USA)



Epileptic Terror Attack "We are the Attack" ep
Sweden's ETA are back at it and I am glad that they didn't cave in and change their name. More importantly, they haven't changed their sound. 7 new songs of raw F.U.'s inspired skate thrash with a DICKS cover thrown in for posterity. Tight edits between songs, which bleed into one another, creating a momentum. Updating old punk ideas as exemplified in "Why try to be something when you're actually nothing". And something else that has become curious to *Deranged* releases is the reworking of the HUSKER DU logo, first with HAYMAKER, then with FUCKED UP and now with ETA. Hmmmm. SP
(Deranged Records / P.O. Box 543, Station P / Toronto, ON / M5S 2T1 / Canada)

**Feast or Famine** "Negative Reflections" ep

All the DISCHARGE worship artwork is found on the cover from a collage work of war with world leaders to thousands of pictures of black leather jackets to the slick fold out poster. The music is more like a blastbeat feeding frenzy with those throaty crusty vocals. Now this might be so bad,

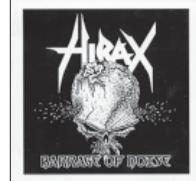


except the high hats seem to take over the sound and all you can hear is high pitched symbol crashes. I think this is for fans of AGOTHOCLES or MONSTER X. SP
(Battlecry / P.O. Box 391224 / Clinton Twp, MI / 48038 / USA)

Hirax "Blasted in Bangkok", "Barrage of Noise", "El Diablo Negro" CDs

Phantasm "Wreckage" CD

With the resurgent interest in 80s crossover thrash going strong, we have a series of new releases from Los Angeles' HIRAX. I thought they formed in 1985, but "Blasted..." contains a version of "Bombs of Death" from '84. Regardless, the "Bangkok" material would have followed their two LP's on *Metal Blade*. The other two releases are new ep's recorded after HIRAX's 2000 reunion. The new material is more technically proficient and is improved with a slightly harsher vocal delivery. PHANTASM features HIRAX singer Katon W. DePena and early METALLICA bassist Ron McGovney. They play a more straight-forward thrash metal style. The guitar playing is a little more crisp and the DePena's vocal style is similarly power metal-influenced. PHANTASM lack the moshiness of HIRAX in favour of more distinct solos as well. The CD of "Wreckage" also contains a live set from 1987. Both studio and live recordings contain the most unique cover of SSD's "Glue" you'll ever hear. All these recordings are available on CD and vinyl and should be crucial listening for anybody who's getting into the new wave of crossover bands like HOLIER THAN THOU, MUNICIPAL WASTE or DFA. MR
(Deep Six / Box 6911 / Burbank, CA / 91510-6911 / USA)



Human Waste "Ett 6-Pack Folkol & Antipolis" CD

A discography of this killer Swedish hardcore brought to you by your friends at *Hardcore Holocaust*. For those who have never heard them, like myself, you are in for a treat of ripping fast youth crust that is dirty around the edges. This CD collects a number of eps that have limited presses of under 500, so the material is already pretty rare, which is a shame, and there is some live stuff at the end. HUMAN WASTE sound a lot like SKIT SYSTEM. The buzzsaw guitar sound, a pace that is fast and unrelenting, a slightly distorted high pitched howl, and songs that tear at the very fabric of society. This is crucial for fans of well played Swedish hardcore with hints of the new Dutch thrash thrown in. SP
(Hardcore Holocaust / P.O. Box 26742 / Richmond, VA / 23261 / USA)

**Immortal Fate** "Beautiful" LP

Not much info about this band in their layout, but it seems like IMMORTAL FATE were around during the early-90s death metal boom. The material contained on this LP (red wax on mine) was recorded in '93 and the show flyers photocopied from the artwork show them playing with NAPALM DEATH, DANZIG and DEATH while at the same time, playing other shows with PLUTOCRACY, SPAZZ and EXCRUCIATING TERROR. So I don't exactly know where they were coming from scene-wise, but they end up sounding like EXCRUCIATING TERROR playing longer songs. If you're a metal fan, this is worth having in your collection and at least if you don't like it, you've gotta admit "Beautiful" is the best name for a death metal record, hands down. MR
(625 / Box 423413 / San Francisco, CA / 94142-3413 / USA)

**Infest** "Live @ KXL" LP

This 45rpm LP of classic INFEST material was recorded for Los Angeles radio show "The Full-Throated Ordeal" on KXL in 1991 and officially sees the light of day thanks to *Deep Six Records*. Since their playing in a studio, the sound quality is better than the average "live" record. In case you



don't know, INFEST play blazing thrash one minute, and brutally slow hardcore the next. If you didn't know that, this record is probably not the best introduction to the band. I'd only recommend it to established fans. Young minds should go find the "Slave" LP and find out exactly why powerviolence was such a big deal. MR
(Deep Six / Box 6911 / Burbank, CA / 91510-6911 / USA)

Iranach / Structure of Lies split CD

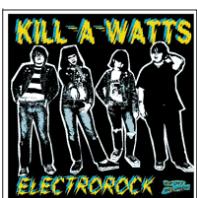
The layout for this is horrible and I despise the split CD format. STRUCTURE OF LIES from Arizona come up first. Two singers. One screaches while the other growls. The guitar sound borders on mechanical. IRANACH from New Hampshire start their half off with what can only be described as a vocal burp that made me want to break the disc in half. Music is a monotonous blurr and the vocal burping continues throughout. Lyrics like "Nails are nailed to nails/Those nails are wrapped in silk" temporarily convince me this is a joke, but the sheer stupidity of it all could only be unintentional. S.O.L. come out on top of this pairing with their competent, albeit uninspired death metal. Amusingly (and fittingly so) my computer's spell check suggests I change IRANACH to "urinate". MR

(Deep Six / Box 6911 / Burbank, CA / 91510-6911 / USA)



Kill-A-Watts "Electrorock" LP

More teenage kicks from Wisconsin on the *Rip Off* label. Two guys and two girls blast some seriously snotty punk rock. This full-length is much better than their split 7" with the CATHOLIC BOYS. It's well produced and the songs kick ass. The male/female vocals keep things moving and the pace is relentless. Take your basic RAMONES-punk formula, speed it up, add some "rock", some attitude and a healthy dose of pink bubblegum and the KILL-A-WATTS are what you get. Fuck! MR
(Rip Off Records / 581 Maple / San Bruno, CA / 94066)



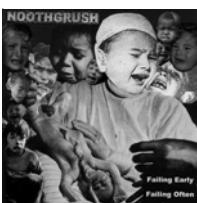
Murdersquad T.O. / Sore Throat split ep

I didn't even know SORE THROAT were still around. That joke grind band from Bradford were hilarious for their time and spawned a number of copy cat pratt projects, but have not been heard from in over a decade. They deliver a side of white noise experimental crap a la M.I.T.B. or ANAL CUNT (Do you know about that 1096 song ep, in which they recorded separate tracks in a 16 track studio and counted them each as songs, so that they could have the most amount of songs on an ep. Interesting concept, but nothing worth listening to unless you are an industrial-head.) It is impressive that a new local super-crust group were able to do a split with such a big name. MURDERSQUAD T.O. feature Mike from ABALIENATION and Preston from the SPAZMS and SPOTTY BOTTY. They pull together some top notch crust-core that steals from metal riffage and hardcore pace. Mike's vocals are the Swedish d-beat belches of SKIT SYSTEM or HUMAN WASTE. They are a great new band and you should not be discouraged from picking this up despite the waste of a SORE THROAT side. MURDERSQUAD T.O. are worth it alone. SP
(Wounded Paw Records / 28 Brookfield Street / Toronto, ON / M6J 3A9 / Canada)



Noothgrush "Failing Early, Failing Often" CD

This is a collection of material NOOTHGRUSH recorded between 1995 and 1997 at Trainwreck studios (there's a theme!). All songs have been previously released in some way although you may not have heard them unless you're some sort of depressive sludge-core devotee. But most of this material is taken from some of their more important releases (notably their "Embraced by the Anti Self" ep on *Slap-A-Ham*, splits with AGENTS OF SATAN, DEADBODIESEVERYWHERE and compilations such as Reality #2, Cry Now Cry Later Vol. 4 and Accidental Decapitation Through Masturbation). There are some really good songs on here ("29th Scroll" from their split ep with BLACK ARMY JACKET being the standout for me). Recommended for those who don't already have all the comps and splits. MR
(Slap-A-Ham / P.O. Box 7337 / Alhambra, CA / 91802-7337 / USA)



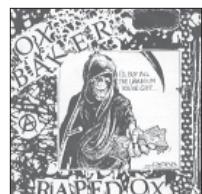
Otophobia "Confined" ep

Dirty sounding d-beat from Philly. OTOPHOBIA is the combination of sending ARTIMUS PYLE to Sweden and schooling them on the art of the classics. Dark and looming sounds set to repetitive three chord progressions that create a pounding soundtrack for your life. The pace is slightly faster. The vocals have a Sam McPhetters sneer with the chocked out delivering of Charles Maggio. The combination off all these elements eventually robs your attention. It's fuckin' brilliant and creeps up on you. SP
(Sounds of Betrayal / Box 7092 / 200 42 Malmo / Sweden)



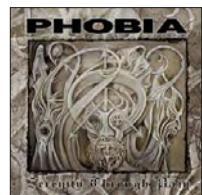
Oxbaker "Raped Ass" ep

This is a power violence tug-of-war between the grind-ish parts of INFEST and the trudging parts of PHC. Add the wrestling sensibilities of GSMF and you start to get inside their heads. There are all out blast-ish parts offset by demented eerie breakdowns. Dual vocal attack. Conscious messages mixed with humourous ones. They are truly thrashmasters and they do come from St. Thomas – the burial ground of Jumbo the Elephant. SP
(Putrid Filth Conspiracy / Box 7092 / 200 42 Malmo / Sweden)



Phobia "Serenity Through Pain" LP

Really nice packaging on this record! Glossy, gatefold AND it comes with a fold-out poster. Maybe a little too slick (and something worries me about the standard "unauthorized duplication" warning on the back that usually is omitted from punk/hardcore records). PHOBIA continue to play their style of grindcore focusing on political themes (and a FINAL CONFLICT cover). Song titles tell all: "You Suffer", "Slave to Religion", "Social Sheep", etc. Not exactly ground breaking, but fans of "extreme" music should check this out. MR
(Deep Six / Box 6911 / Burbank, CA / 91510-6911 / USA)



Randy "Cheater" CD

"Addicts of Communication" has a heavy SLF influence. It is so smooth with the bass lines, so catchy with the choruses, and so raw at the same time. The problem is that this song is from a previous release. Re-packaging is a cheap rip off at re-selling previously released material. It rubs me the wrong way. However RANDY fans will overlook this for the three newer unreleased tracks. They have a noticeably more acoustic feel to it. The garage and bubble gum rock influence is heavy. The music is punked up blues like the first DANKO JONES demo. And the previously released material has a JOE JACKSON drive to it. The spelled out chorus in "Dynamite" although catchy also has a feel like you are watching the Electric Company. It is hip and juvenile. Dig it baby.
(G-7 Welcoming Committee / P.O. Box 27006, C-360 Main Street / Winnipeg, MB / R3C 4T3 / Canada)



Reproach "Thrash Mayhem" ep

Fierce skate thrash from Belgium, strongly influenced by the speed of grind, as much as the catchiness of DOWN IN FLAMES. This is on board with all the thrash mayhem coming out of Holland and Scandinavia. Kind of like a cross between ASSEL and BETTERCORE. The cover art looks like something from a DEAD ONES ep – skeletons in a pit fury setting. The release comes on green swirl vinyl. It's good to see Belgium entering the debate. SP
(Kid for Life / 204/14 Rue Des Fusillés / 59493 V. d'Ascq / France)



Self Defense "Shooting Punk Terror" ep

Holy fuck. This is the bar being raised. A new definition for raw and pissed. The next step in DIY packaging. The new wave of straight forward hardcore. The bass lines sound like LIP CREAM. And Jeff writes some of the best lyrics I have read in years with songs like "Blanks 182" and "I've seen the future of rock 'n roll and Radiohead has

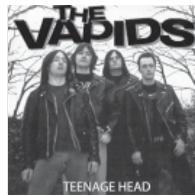


nothing to do with it". The pace is manic and impatient. SELF DEFENSE combine the depth of 9 SHOCKS with the energy of the thrash revival and up the IQ points. I don't know about the future of rock 'n roll, but I do know about the future of hardcore and I hope it's SELF DEFENSE. Get on this. SP

(Uncle Slam / P.O. Box 18A534 / Los Angeles, CA / 90018 / USA)

Vapids, The "Teenage Head" CD

A tribute to the first TEENAGE HEAD full length in its entirety. Brought to you by the Burlington foursome who are best known for their similarity to the RAMONES. Regardless, it is all from the same school of tuneful punk with a heavy rock 'n roll influence. This is incredible and brings me back to days of listening to my "Let's Shake" ep playing air guitar and watching the riots on the news clips at Ontario Place that closed that place for a decade because people couldn't get into the sold out show of TEENAGE HEAD. This took place around the same time as the WHO riots in Cincinnati and the ALICE COOPER riot in Toronto. To folks outside of southern Ontario, I don't think they can fully grasp the influence that TEENAGE HEAD on the early punk scene. This is recorded with their blessing and Gord Lewis even works as the producer on this. The VAPIDS do a great job of capturing the sexiness of the HEADS punk sound. And the tight edits between songs has that RAMONES feel. A great idea. SP (Double Hell / P.O. Box 57195, Jackson Square / Hamilton, ON / L8P 4X1 / Canada)



Wasteoid "Total Pukeoid" LP

Over the top grind with fuckin' great samples that advocate things like poor hygiene. This is pretty sophisticated grind though blending in things like SCALPLOCK or SHANK, so it crème de la crème grind. Although they can be as chaotic sounding as someone like MELT BANANA or EAST-WEST BLAST TEST, there is still enough focus here to keep you riveted. There are the puking guttural grunts of disgust spewed out over top of pummelling blastbeats sandwiched in between some of the obscurest b-movie samples. This is dense, like a Chomsky reader, with subcultural tidbits. SP

(Intolerant Messiah / P.O. Box 6162 / San Mateo, CA / 94403 / USA)



Various Artists "(Coles) Notes from the Underground" CD

Completely refreshing, from the cool twist on the title to the scene that it represents in Toronto. Political pop punk has a local voice in this new fledgling label run by London from CLOSET MONSTER. This is a sampler type thing to launch the label but it has good representation of the local pop punk scene with unreleased material by D4's cousin, - MARILYN's VITAMINS, PROPAGHANDHI's twin - CLOSET MONSTER, the long awaited BOMBS OVER PROVIDENCE, and PROTEST THE HERO. They each get two tracks, one previously released one unreleased. My favourite off the comp is "Smells like Revolutionary Spirit" by CLOSET MONSTER with the ringing guitars and the screamed harmonies – probably one of the strongest songs from their latest full length. SP

(Underground Operations / P.O. Box 13 / Ajax, ON / L1S 3C2 / Canada)



Various Artists "Reality Part #4" LP/CD

The latest in the Reality series from Deep Six records is probably the weakest to date. Or maybe I'm just not "getting it" anymore. Most of the bands play a grind/power-violence/hardcore hybrid with gruff vocals and speed emphasized over memorable songs. Some of the bands that stick out are HAYMAKER (who sound like a classic American hardcore band in comparison to everything else contained herein), I FOUND GOD (who dare to have a singer that, get this, SINGS!), LACK OF INTEREST (who's take on INFEST's sound continues to brutalize listeners), SELF INFILCTED (I guess there song here is sort of mid-tempo-ish new hardcore - hard to describe) and Japan's DUDMAN (barrage-of-noise thrash that works surprisingly well). We also get a song from LOW THREAT PROFILE which is a new band with members of INFEST which leaves me wanting to hear more, but at twenty-five seconds, doesn't satisfy me. MR (Deep Six Records / PO Box 6911 / Burbank, CA / 91510 / USA)



demo features

Cowpie "Loud at Any Volume" Demo - featured on July 14th program COWPIE are from La Ronge, Saskatchewan, which is a town four hours north of Saskatoon. They have their brand new CD out, which reminds Simon of early FACE-TO-FACE, but with better vocals and rawer production....

(Cody Kurchirk / P.O. Box 451 / La Ronge, SK / S0J 1L0 / Canada / e-mail: cowpie66@hotmail.com)

Knife Fight CD-R Demo - featured on July 21st program

KNIFE FIGHT are a band from California slowly gaining a lot of recognition. It's because of their geneology. They feature two members from LIFE'S HALT and one member of SHARK ATTACK, among others. Their hardcore reflects past geneology in many ways.

(Knife Fight / 5515 Canoga Ave., Apt 127 / Woodland Hills, CA / 91367 / USA / e-mail: knife_fight@hotmail.com)



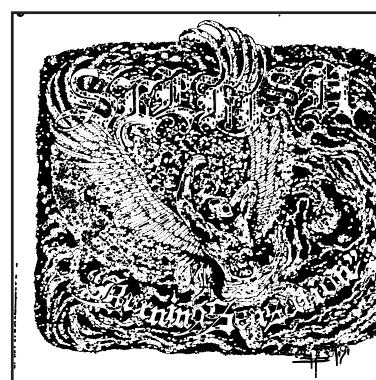
Frenzy Demo - featured on July 28th program FRENZY are from Connecticut. I came across this demo completely by accident. In my correspondence with a project band called PROJECT STARKWEATHER the guy wrote me back about a real band from his neighbourhood. It was FRENZY and he included a copy of their demo. They sound an awful lot like VOORHEES or OUT COLD in how straight forward they are in terms of their hardcore writing.

(Kyle Naumec / P.O. Box 175 / Scotlan, CT, / 06264 / USA / e-mail: tilldeathx@yahoo.com)



Deathsquad Demo - featured on August 4th program

DEATHSQUAD is a four piece from Albany. They have been together for a year now. The band is made up of Eric the bass player in JBA, Nate from the OATH/DOF/MONSTER X/BY THE THROAT/JBA, Mark from HAIL MARY and LIMPWRIST, and Dan from a band called BULLET. The bass is really up front in the mix giving it this looming sense about the whole recording. There are atmospheric noises in between each song that link them. There are slow, jangly intros to each song and then you get the thrash. And the thrash is good, especially played off on all these structures. The vocals sound like they were taken from the singer of CRUCIFIX. They plan on doing something on Gloom and Paralogy, which are Nate and Mark's labels. Stay tuned. (P.O. Box 14253 / Albany NY / 12212 / USA / e-mail: sissycore@hotmail.com)



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scheduled to be held at KYTES are all being relocated to other venues in the city.

Show listings

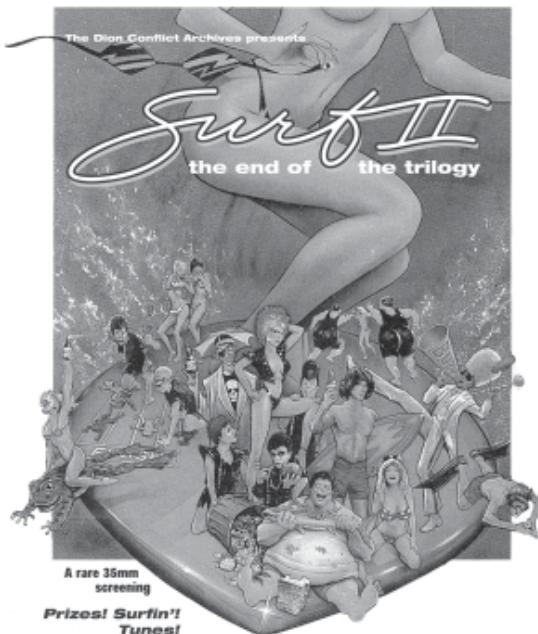
TUESDAY AUGUST 13TH @ 360 Club - METAL EDDIES
FRIDAY AUGUST 16TH @ Planet Kensington - FIGHTING CHANCE (Baltimore) / THE PROWLERS (Mtl)
SATURDAY AUGUST 17TH @ the Katedral (Anti-Warped tour show) - FIGHTING CHANCE (Baltimore) / THE PROWLERS (Mtl) / DIRTY BIRD (Toronto) / BUNCHO FUCKINGOOF (Toronto) / THE HEATSKORES (Aurora) / THE CLASS (Toronto)
SUNDAY AUGUST 18TH @ K.Y.T.E.S. - "Satan Macnugget" Video Screening / "Be a Cog" by Go Guerilla / "Compliance Culture" by Bennett
TUESDAY AUGUST 20TH @ Lee's Palace - HOT SNAKES / BEEHIVE AND THE BARRACUDOS
WEDNESDAY AUGUST 21ST @ tba - STEP SISTER
THURSDAY AUGUST 22ND @ Royal Theatre, 9:20 pm - FILM: Surf II
FRIDAY AUGUST 23RD @ Royal theatre, 9:45 pm FILM: Kung Fu Kickboxer
SATURDAY AUGUST 24TH @ (Oshawa) HE BROKE (Winnipeg, HC/grind) / FUCK THE FACTS (Ottawa, grindcore) / FATAL WARSNAKE (Oshawa, hc/thrash) / FATO (Oshawa, oldschool grindcore) / PUNCH DRUNK (Oshawa, streetpunk) / DEVOURED (Oshawa, killing metal) / PIE PHUCKERS (Oshawa, thrash/punk) / LORDS OF THE UTERUS (noiseshitpunk)
SUNDAY AUGUST 25TH @ Rivoli, 2:00pm - R.A.M.B.O.
THURSDAY AUGUST 29TH @ the Corktown Tavern (Hamilton), 9 pm - HAYMAKER / FUCKED UP / SHIPWRECK / HIT THE DECK
SATURDAY AUGUST 31st 2002 @ Ania's cafe - John Doom and the MURDERSQUAD T.O. doing all DOOM songs / LEGION666 / CORPUSSE
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 1ST @ Katedral - THE HEATSKORES / METAL EDDIES / THE LEGENDARY KLOPECS / CONSTABLE BRENNAN
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 3RD @ Lee's Palace - YOUTH BRIGADE
FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 13TH @ Katedral, All Ages - THE CLASS ASSASSINS / GC5 / BANGERS
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 22ND @ Lee's Palace - WIRE
SATURDAY & SUNDAY OCTOBER 19TH & 20TH @ K.Y.T.E.S. - Toronto Anarchist Bookfair. For more info e-mail: asloconnor@sympatico.ca

KUNG FU FRIDAYS AT THE ROYAL

Thursday August 15th - RIKI-OH: THE STORY OF RICKY, 9:25pm - Based on a hyper-violent Japanese Manga (comic) called Rikki-O. The term "hyper-violence" is relative to the Japanese Anime and film industry, meaning high-impact and unbelievably gory death scenes. RIKI-OH: STORY OF RICKY's combination of fantasy, martial arts, and extreme gore turned into an instant cult phenomenon. While fleeing from pursuing opium dealers, Ricky's girlfriend (Gloria Yip) plunges to her death. Naturally, Ricky plots revenge against the leader of the drug-dealing lowlifes. When Ricky kills the drug lords and gets sentenced to life in prison, this prison is a franchised corporate entity. The corrupt Warden rules this jail with an iron fist, and has set up a leadership system called the Gang of Four; a group of super-deadly mercenaries. Upon entering the facility, Ricky is immediately beset by bully inmates, prison guards, and Gang of Four members. But Ricky is trained in a deadly form of martial arts, and possesses superhuman strength. When the Gang of Four torture and kill Ricky's prisoner friends, Ricky sets his sights on the Warden's private opium nursery. This infuriates the Warden, and he promises to make Ricky's death his number one priority. This leads to the ultimate showdown between Ricky and the Warden. Alternate screenings on : Sunday August 18th, 4:20pm

FRIDAY AUGUST 23rd - KUNG FU KICKBOXER , 9:45 pm - Spinning off from the popular storyline of another film, KUNG FU KICKBOXER has Wong Fei-hong, the classic martial arts hero from Tsui Hark's ONCE UPON A TIME IN CHINA series, off on a trip, leaving his kung fu school in the hands of his student, the impulsive Lau Zhai (Yuen Biao). He quickly forms allies with police chief Gold Panther (Yen Shi Kwan who played the fierce Iron Robe Yim in QUATIC) to topple an opium distribution ring lead by nasty Wah (Yuen Wah, another of Biao's classmates). Featuring a game of kung fu chess, the martial arts sequences are fast faced and furious as Yuen Biao flips and kicks with his unique, gracefull skill.

SATURDAY AUGUST 24th - UZUMAKI, 9:30pm - In the quiet Japanese town of Kurouzu-Cho (literally translated as, "The Black Spiral"), life appears calm and peaceful. A schoolgirl, Kirie, discovers the father of a classmate in a trance as he videotapes the spiral pattern on a snail shell. The power of the spiral is equally hypnotic and destructive. Suicides rock the town, and corpses are found covered in snail slime. The father of Kirie's friend becomes obsessed with the spiral patterns, and spends his days and nights in a room surrounded by every manner of spiral he can find. In an attempt to break the spell over her husband, his wife decides to purge the room of his collection. That night his body is found twisted in the washing machine. His funeral triggers a terrifying unnatural phenomenon as the sky transform into a foreboding black spiral cloud in which the faces of the deceased appear. Daily events soon take on disturbing whirlpool of death and unexplained occurrences. The Uzumaki has just begun to take hold of Kirie's small world. Alternate screenings on : i) Sunday August 25th, 9:15pm and ii) Monday August 26th, 9:00pm



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